

DRAWING OBJECTIONS RELATING TO SPECIFICATION OF USSN 10/042,678

The Examiner's objection to the omission of "Prior Art" from Fig. 3, which is presently emended in the corrected third sheet of the drawing. For greater clarity, 69, 108A, and 108C, in Fig. 11B (66B in Fig. 9) 111 to Fig. 11 114 in Fig. 9, 116A-D in Fig. 10 have been added to the drawing.

**IN THE SPECIFICATION - AN AMENDED (MARKED UP) SPECIFICATION AS SET FORTH BELOW
ARE ENCLOSED AS RIDER SPEC, REFLECTING THE BELOW EMENDMENTS**

In reply to the PTO Examiner as to the Claims rejection based on Code Section 112, with regard to technical objections in the Specification ranging from page 1 to page 9, the Applicants have modified them by the emendments set forth below, as invited by the Examiner.

Page 1, line 4, after "09/707,208" insert ≡U.S. Letters Patent 6,390,666B1, granted May 21, 2002≡.

Page 4, line 7, 12, 14, and 17, all of the extraneous legends parenthetically are deleted.

Page 6, line 20, delete "52R" and insert ≡52L≡ (Fig. 3).

Page 8, line 5, delete "sleeve", and insert ≡metal liner≡.

Page 8, line 15, delete "bushing", and insert ≡sleeve assembly≡.

Page 9, line 20, delete "house", and insert ≡housing≡.

The title of the invention has been amended to recite: Upstream Pneumatic Visco Seal Assembly. Per modified Rule 121, Specification pages 1 through 12 have been retyped using deletion marks (strikethroughs) and underling for new words, so that the entire Specification section is represented in the attached fresh pages as Rider SPEC-MKD.. Miscellaneous emendments to the added matter pages starting at page 9 of the Specification have been included. Rider SPEC-CLN is the clean test version.

All the above emendments are supported by the drawing and/or original claims set.

REPLY AND TRANSVERSAL OF CLAIMS REJECTION BASED UNDER CODE SECTION 103

Original claim set 1-7 were rejected based on the above Code Section, which ground is respectfully traversed, predicated on the following. The focus of the inventor features of this seal assembly is centered upon pneumatic housing 68B, its internal annular ridge 111, and the associated pair of packing rings (lip seals), 88B/C, all conveniently depicted in the exploded view of Fig. 10 and then functionally depicted in a side elevation view of Figs. 9 and 11B. The crucial juxtaposition of these novel elements are set forth in amended dependent claim as subparagraph (d) (cf. Rider CL).

In contrast, while Fig. 2 of the disburser seal device of Johnston '762 does show an elongate sleeve 44 and a large plurality of packing rings (40, 41, 42, and 43 are abutting left of channel 83) and the 62 to 65 set are right of annular channel 82, such as a vastly more complex means of sealing his passageway 81. Indeed, the left hand packing set 49, are isolated from cavity 82 (see Spec. column 7, line 30-38). So it fails to isolate a pneumatic air supply in the manner now claimed.

In this Specification, the simplified sealing means 68B, annular ridge 111, and lip seals 88B/C of the present invention are neither taught nor suggested by Johnston as first disclosed in the present innovative sealing assembly.

It is submitted the amended Claim 1 cannot neither be "read on" the dispersal seal of the Johnston patent; moreover, it recites a differently configured and patently distinct pneumatic housing Visco seal assembly, which is notably disparate structure from that of the prior citation.

As to rejected dependent Claim 3 which is directed to the preferred material of fabrication of the lip seal components, 88B/C, namely VITON brand of fluoroelastomers. While secondary citation Systima '293 teaches VISTON material for its peripheral elongate shield 14, this is not a suggestion for its use in the packing rings (lip seals). More importantly, the

amended dependent Claim 3 includes all of the affirmative recitations of main Claim 1, and thus relies primarily for patentability on its parent claim. This ground of rejection is thought to be effectively traversed along with Claim 1, and the allowability of dependent Claim 3 along with amended Claims 1-7 is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

The drawing and claim objections have been met by present submissions, including a need now for a corrected set of figures; a complete set of amended original claims, and minor amendments of the specifications (from pages 2, 5, and 6, respectively). All the foregoing represents a bona fide effort to comply with the major rule changes on amendment formats now set forth in revised 37 C.F.C. Section 1.121.

Very truly yours,



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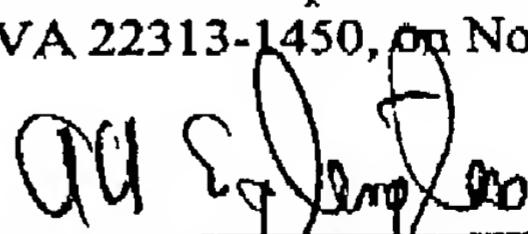
Date: November 17, 2003

Enclosures: Transmittal Letter on Formal Drawing Submission
Marked up set of claims incorporating proposed amendments
Clean set of specification changes on pages 2, 5, and 6, incorporating minor other emendments
(PTO Form A820) on patent citations as amended.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Certified Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 17, 2003.

Date: 17 Nov 03


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